

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Jeremy R. Levine, assistant professor of organizational studies, and assistant professor of sociology, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of organizational studies, with tenure, and associate professor of sociology, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

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| Ph.D. | 2016 | Harvard University |
| A.M. | 2011 | Harvard University |
| B.A. | 2008 | University of Michigan |

Professional Record:

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| 2016–present | Assistant Professor, Organizational Studies, University of Michigan |
| 2017–present | Assistant Professor, Sociology, University of Michigan |
| 2017–present | Faculty Affiliate, Poverty Solutions Initiative, University of Michigan |

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Levine has developed an unusually strong teaching record in Organizational Studies, teaching classes on nonprofit organizations, urban inequality, Advanced Research Team classes on topics related to his research interests, and—especially valuable—the required OS course in research methods. Across these classes, he receives exceptionally high student evaluations, while maintaining high academic standards and assigning as much as a book a week of reading in upper-level seminars. Students have recognized his classroom excellence by twice nominating him for a Golden Apple award, including in Fall 2020, during the peak of the COVID pandemic. Outside the classroom, Professor Levine has contributed by advising undergraduate theses and serving on dissertation committees, as well as helping to coordinate an Urban Sociology graduate workshop.

Research: Professor Levine is a sociologist whose primary substantive focus is on public policy and inequality, particularly in urban settings. He has undertaken two major research projects. The first explores the key role nonprofit organizations have come to play in urban governance, showing their function as intermediaries between residents of poor neighborhoods and resources, and demonstrating that they have come to displace elected officials in that role. This is an important contribution to our understanding of both urban governance and democratic representation. The second examines the history and impact of victim compensation policy, in which people convicted of crimes pay into funds that compensate victims of crime. Professor Levine shows how this novel financing mechanism made a new social program politically possible, and how racism shaped both the structure of the program and its eventual impact. He uses a broad array of methods, from ethnography to quantitative analysis to historical research, and his research has been published by a top university press and top journals in sociology. Professor Levine has been extremely successful both in terms of quality and quantity of his publications and is on a trajectory of growing impact in his subfields and the discipline as a whole.

Recent and Significant Publications:

- Levine, J. R. & Russell, K. L. (2023). Crime pays the victim: Criminal fines, the state, and victim compensation law, 1964-1984. *American Journal of Sociology*, 128(4).
- Levine, J. R. (2021). *Constructing Community: Urban Governance, Development, and Inequality in Boston*. Princeton University Press.
- Levine, J. R. (2017). The paradox of community power: Cultural processes and elite authority in participatory governance. *Social Forces*, 95(3): 1155-1179.
- Levine, J. R. (2016). The privatization of political representation: Community-based organizations as nonelected neighborhood representatives. *American Sociological Review*, 81(6): 1251-1275.

Service: Professor Levine has made substantial contributions to the functioning of Organizational Studies as an assistant professor. He has chaired the Admissions Committee as well as serving on it three additional times, and served on multiple search committees, as well as the curriculum committee, undergraduate awards committee, and lectureship review committee, among others. Outside of the university, Professor Levine has been involved in the American Sociological Association's Community and Urban Sociology section, chairing its student paper award committee and serving on its publication committee. He has reviewed for a wide range of publications in sociology and related fields.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A): “[Professor Levine’s] productivity and impact are impressive: four single-authored peer-reviewed articles (including ASR and Social Forces), four co-authored peer-reviewed essays (including AJS), two book chapters, and a book with Princeton University Press...And he has a strong and clearly-defined second project. His dossier is one of the top two or three among the thirty or so I have reviewed in the last 8 years and in terms of productivity, it is literally stronger than a file I have recently reviewed for promotion to Full Professor at an R1 sociology department (incidentally, I recommended promotion in that case!). In terms of productivity I would place him at the top 10% of his cohort of sociologists.”

Reviewer (B): “His publication, teaching, and service record is impeccable...Prof. Levine’s publication record evidences quality and mastery of content...The book’s contributions include documenting how a local governance system’s reliance upon CBOs in planning processes that often take place behind closed doors means that certain voices are amplified over other voices that lack comparable organizational representation...No other works compare of this scale and scope. I expect that others will consider Levine’s ethnography as affording interorganizational insights not discernable through more conventional research approaches of interviews and document analysis.”

Reviewer (C): “In terms of traditional achievement metrics, Professor Levine’s record is impressive and easily exceeds the bar for tenure at a distinguished university. As I count, during his period as assistant professor, Levine has published a book with a top press (Princeton), an article published or forthcoming in each of the two most prominent journals in US sociology (ASR and AJS), at least three other very significant papers in highly respected journals and a variety of other scholarly writings. I am impressed, too, that one of the flagship journal pieces presents work from a second big project. There are few stronger indicators of high promise in a scholar’s work in progress...it already is easily evident that Professor Levine has been an outstandingly productive scholar who is speaking to his academic communities at the highest level.”

Reviewer (D): “Dr. Levine had a strong early record, arriving at Michigan with four publications in major peer reviewed journals, including an article in [ASR] in 2016. Since that time, he continued to

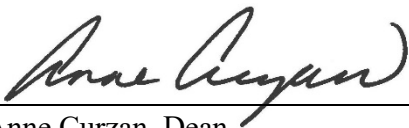
publish in major journals...These are strong indicators of his current stature and future promise.... As his case study becomes better known, I expect that it will stimulate new research by other scholars that will understand organizational processes to be more central in urban political economy than is currently believed. He has a very solid record, and I have no doubt that he would be promoted at...University.”

Reviewer (E): “To cut to the chase: Dr. Levine’s work is excellent. It addresses important questions in urban sociology, poverty, and crime, and does so with high-quality empirical research. It has been placed well, including publications in each of the ‘big three’ sociology journals as well as in other high-profile outlets and a high-profile book. And he has developed a new research area beyond his original, dissertation-related research...I feel confident it would be a slam-dunk case here.”

Reviewer (F): “I am impressed by the quality and novel ideas in Jeremy Levine’s work. All of his work to date is marked by careful research and revelatory insights into urban politics and criminal law...if I were a member of the Organization [sic] Studies program at Michigan, I would let quality be my guide, and vote positively for his promotion to tenure. Whereas the quantity may be somewhat light, the quality is quite exceptional...he is already viewed as a major contributor to the fields of urban politics, nonprofit studies, and political sociology.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Levine is conducting high-quality, rigorous research on topics of great importance: democratic representation in urban governance, and the politics of crime policy. He has established himself as an excellent classroom teacher and key contributor to the curriculum of Organizational Studies. He has also made meaningful contributions in service of the program and has begun to take leadership roles in disciplinary contexts. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Jeremy R. Levine be promoted to the rank of associate professor of organizational studies, with tenure, and associate professor of sociology, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



Anne Curzan, Dean
Geneva Smitherman Collegiate Professor of
English Language and Literature, Linguistics,
and Education
Arthur F. Thurnau Professor
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